

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-4 as follows. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (currently amended) A floor panel which is bounded in a horizontal plane by a top side (15), which is provided with a decorative layer (16) ~~or the like~~, and an underside (7), which is provided for bearing on an underlying surface, the floor panel being provided with means for the releasable connection of at least two panels (1, 2), it being the case that the connecting means are formed on at least one first side edge such that locking takes place in ~~the~~ a transverse direction (Q) and vertical direction (V), that form-fitting elements (23, 24) for locking in the vertical direction (V) with a further panel are formed on a second side edge, which runs at an angle to the first side edge, and that the form-fitting elements (23, 24) are spaced apart from one another in the transverse direction (Q) and in the vertical direction (V) on two spaced-apart, essentially vertically oriented walls (21, 22) ~~(according to DE 102 24 540.1), characterized in that~~ a tongue (10) is formed on the first side edge, the tongue extending in the longitudinal direction of the side edge, and a ~~[sic]~~ recess (3), corresponding to the tongue (10), is formed on an opposite side edge, the underside (120) of the tongue (10), starting from the tip of the tongue (10), having a continuously curved contour.

2. (currently amended) The floor panel according to Claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ characterized in that ~~the~~ radius of curvature of the contour of the underside (120) of the tongue (10) is constant over at least 90 degrees.

3. (currently amended) The floor panel according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~a~~ characterized in that the recess is designed as a groove (3) with a top lip (4) and a bottom lip (6), in which the tongue (10) can be latched in the transverse direction (Q), the underside (120) of the tongue (10) being of rounded design.

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4. (currently amended) The floor panel according to Claim 1, wherein~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ a step-like milled relief-(20) which starts from the underside-(7) and has an inner wall-(21) and an outer wall-(22) is formed on the second side edge, in each case one form-fitting element-(23, 24) which extends in the transverse direction (Q) being formed on the walls-(21, 22), and in that formed on the side edge which is located opposite the second side edge is a step-like milled relief-(200) which starts from the top side-(15) and has an inner wall-(210) and an outer wall-(220), on which are formed undercuts-(230, 240) which correspond with the form-fitting elements-(23, 24), the step-like milled relief-(20), which starts from the underside-(7), forming a shoulder-(25) which projects in the direction of the underside-(7) and has an essentially horizontally oriented head surface-(26), a channel (26') being formed in the head surface-(26) along the longitudinal extent in relation to the second side edge.